ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Urban District of Linslade,

FOR THE YEAR

1925,

BY

— C. M. L. COWPER, —

Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE

Urban District Council

OF

Linslade.

I beg to submit my annual report for 1925.

THE POPULATION

according to the 1921 Census, was 2,373.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.

Forty-seven births were registered.

This gives a birth rate of 19.80 per thousand.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

Twenty-seven deaths were registered in the district. To these must be added six deaths of residents which occurred outside the district, while of those registered two were those of non-residents.

The resulting total is thirty-one, giving a death rate of 13.06 per thousand.

MEASURES RELATING TO CHILD AND MATERNITY WELFARE.

The Infant Welfare Centre is open twice a month at the Forster Institute. At present there are about thirty names on the list.

The general standard is probably second to none in the county.

Short lectures are given regularly either by the Medical Officer or the Nurse, or one of the visiting staff from Aylesbury.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

This year has been wonderfully free from Zymotic disease, only one case, a case of Diphtheria being notified.

In addition a case of chicken pox in a baby was notified on the last day of the year.

CONSUMPTION.

There were no fresh notifications of tuberculosis.

OVER 65 YEARS.

Of the total number of deaths nineteen were over 65 years of age.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, are isolated at home, if this can be done with safety. If not, they are removed to the Grove Isolation Hospital, jointly owned by the Wing Rural and Linslade Urban Districts.

It is situated in the Wing District and consists of modern and up-to-date buildings in three blocks, together with the Matron's house, which is quite separate from either block.

Three different diseases can be received, isolated and nursed at the same time.

There are eight permanent beds in both the enteric and scarlet fever wards, and four in the diphtheria ward, but there is ample space to add more in case of necessity.

After recovery, or removal of the patient to the Hospital, the infected premises are disinfected, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Formalin fumigation is used, and the floors cleansed with suitable disinfectants. Personal effects and bedding are sent to the steam disinfector at Grove Hospital. Arrangements have been made with the medical authorities to take other patients, such as soldiers billeted in the district, suffering from infectious diseases, for disinfecting and bathing; also for cleaning and disinfecting clothes and bedding.

NURSING.

A whole time Nurse is employed by the Linslade Nursing Association; she combines the duties of town nurse, midwife and health visitor.

She pays some 2,500 visits a year, and attends about thirty to thirty-five cases of confinement annually.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS AND INFLUENCE ON HEALTH.

The absence of unhealthy occupations doubtless contributes to the good health of the district and makes it specially suitable for a residential town.

In addition to the ordinary occupations incidental to a country town in an agricultural district, a considerable number of men find regular employment at the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Station, Morgan and Co.'s Carriage, Motor and Engineering Works, Yirrell's builders' yard and premises, printing works, a mill for the manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, and premises for building and repairing canal boats.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none.

WATER SUPPLY.

Is good and abundant. From a deep well the water is pumped to the top of a hill of sufficient elevation above the town level, and distributed by gravitation. It is cleared by sand, the sand being changed as required.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The system in use in the district is a most modern and up-to-date one; the sewage is pumped to the top of a hill above the level of the rest of the district by a pump situated at the Canal side behind Morgan's Works, from there it descends by gravity to the outfall works at the northern end of the district. There are two tanks which can be used either together or independently, and after preliminary clearing in these, the sewage is distributed over filter beds made of clinkers, of which there are four, two working at a time, by an automatically revolving distributor; after running through the filter beds, the effluent passes by means of cement gutters, under the canal and into the river.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received this year.

HOUSE REFUSE.

is still removed bv contract, and that which cannot be burned is deposited on the Council's land at the Sewage Pumping Station and buried. This method has proved so far satisfactory and additional land has been purchased which will be adequate for some time.

MILK SUPPLY, MILK SHOPS, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The milk supply is obtained from the farms in the district, or dairies and milk carts from Leighton Buzzard. There are four cowsheds well supplied with light, ventilation and floor drainage, and with plenty of cubic space per cow; also good drinking water for cows. Another building has recently been put into use as a cowshed but in my opinion it is not suitable for the purpose, and as this book goes to press the matter is being taken up by the Council. No action regarding unwholesome milk, tuberculous or otherwise, has been found necessary during the year.

The Linslade Council retains the services of a Veterinary Inspector for the district.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Two buildings in the district are now in use as slaughter houses, and neither of them quite comes up to the requisite standard.

That behind the Bedford Arms will probably remain for the time being at all events till fresh premises can be obtained.

The building at Charity Wharf is unsuitable, both as regards position and structure, and action is now being taken by the Council regarding it.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is one which is regularly inspected, limewashed, and in accordance with all requirements.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Morgan & Co.'s Carriage and Motor Works. They have been very considerably enlarged of late. They are modern buildings, roomy, well lighted and ventilated, supplied with sufficient sanitary conveniences and equipped with automatically closing fireproof doors.

Brantom's Mills for corn crushing, manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, etc., also in good condition, with plenty of room, light and ventilation.

Printing Works.—A comparatively new building, first constructed for a brewery, altered and fitted up for its present purpose.

Premises for building and repairing canal boats, situated beside the canal and in good order.

There are twelve workshops, including the bakehouse previously mentioned, all being for the ordinary trades of a small town, such as dressmaking, tailoring, forges, hand laundries, etc. No defects were found.

OUTWORKERS.

The name of one outworker engaged in the urban district of Westminster has been received.

SCHOOLS.

Are three in number.

1. The New Boys' School. Lofty, well ventilated and up-to-date in school architecture. The approach to this school has recently been improved by several cart loads of clinkers being put down, but this must be only a temporary measure, and the whole approach should shortly be permanently improved in order to render it clean and dry for the boys attending the school.

2. The Stoke Road Council Girls' School. This School was entirely re-roofed during the winter of 1922-23, and is now in first-class repair and a thoroughly good airy, well-ventilated School.

3. The Council Infants' School. Previously used for both girls and infants, now only for the latter, for which it is certainly better suited on account of the smaller number of children. All previous objections are now non-existent.

SERA, VACCINES, ETC.

Anti-diphtheria serum is supplied free of charge by the Council by arrangements with the local chemists, and anti-influenza serum can be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health, also free of charge in the event of an epidemic occurring.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION—ESPECIALLY WORKING CLASSES: ITS ADEQUACY AND FITNESS FOR HABITATION.

There is some scarcity of accommodation, although a good many new houses suitable for the artisan and working classes have been built in recent years. Most of the houses have plenty of open space, plots of garden and clean surroundings.

Plans for ten new houses have been passed during the year, and now that private building is again taking place the existing shortage of houses should soon be remedied.

The Council exercises strict supervision over the erection of new houses. All plans are submitted to the Council and occupation is not permitted until Bye-laws have been conformed to, and efficient sanitary arrangements carried out.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. L. COWPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

1925.

General Inspection of dwelling houses for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	192
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil.
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21
Number of defects remedied without service of formal notice	19
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) by Owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	nil.
Slaughter Houses on Register	2
Inspections	24
Defects found	3
Defects remedied	3
Bakehouses on Register	1
Inspections	6
Defects found	1
Remedied	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	7
Inspections	28
Defects found	3
Remedied	3
Factories and Workshops.....	3
Inspections	9
Defects found	nil.
Total number of New Houses erected or in course of erection in the year	10
Number erected with State Assistance under the Housing Acts	6

HAROLD A. ROLLS,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1925 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor. No.	Nett.						Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1919	2262	28	28	21·36	24	10·61	1	1	3	107.01	24	10.61
1920	2262	51	51	22·5	19	8·3	5	2	2	39·21	16	7·0
1921	2262	44	44	20·6	19	8·3	1	1	2	39·21	19	8·3
1922	2373	34	34	14·37	30	12·64	2	13	3	113·33	41	17·27
1923	2373	28	28	11·79	22	9·27	2	4	2	71·43	24	10·11
1924	2373	38	38	16·01	22	9·27	1	2	0	0	23	9·65
1925	2373	47	47	19·80	27	11·38	2	6	3	63.82	31	13·06

Area of District in acres (land and inland water). 1,693.

Total population of all ages... ... 2373
Nunber of inhabited houses ... 574
Average numbers of persons per house 4

At Census, 1921.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1925.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.													Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 45	45 to 65						65 & upwards		
Diphtheria	I	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Chicken Pox	I	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total	2		I		I									I	

TABLE III.

Cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1925.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F.	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20			N	O	N	E		
25								
35								
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals								

TABLE IV.

Wing Rural District. – Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1925.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards
All Causes { Certified / Uncert.	31	3			1	1		7	19
Enteric Fever									
Small-pox									
Measles									
Scarlet Fever									
Whooping Cough ...									
Diphtheria and Croup ...									
Influenza	1							1	
Erysipelas									
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..									
Tuberculous Meningitis									
Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Cancer, malignant Disease	5							1	4
Rheumatic Fever ...	1					1			
Meningitis	1				1				
Organic Heart Disease ..	4								4
Bronchitis	1								1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1								1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs									
Diarrhœa and Enteritis									
Appendicitis & Typhlitis									
Cirrhosis of Liver ...									
Diabetes									
Cerebral Hæmorrhage...	1							1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease									
Puerperal Fever... ...									
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...									
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	3	3							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide									
Suicide									
Other Defined Diseases	5							4	1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	8								8
Accidents...									
Totals	31	3			1	1		7	19

Linslade Urban District.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified / Uncertified	2			2	1				3
Small-pox									
Chicken-pox									
Measles									
Scarlet Fever									
Whooping Cough ...									
Diphtheria : Croup ...									
Erysipelas									
Tuberculous Meningitis									
Abdominal Tuberculosis									
Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)									
Convulsions									
Laryngitis...									
Bronchitis									
Pneumonia (all forms) ...									
Diarrhœa									
Enteritis									
Gastritis									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Suffocation, overlying ...									
Injury at Birth									
Atelectasis									
Congenital Malformations									
Premature Birth	2			2	1				3
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus									
Violence									
Other Causes									
Totals	2			2	1				3

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate 47. Illegitimate 1.